

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9906

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NY

S E C R E T LUSAKA 0484

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, ZA

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT CALLS IN AMBASSADOR ON SOUTHERN
AFRICA

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR MARK CHONA REACHED ME AT
1900 MARCH 19 TO SAY PRESIDENT KAUNDA WANTED TO SEE ME AT
STATE HOUSE AT 2030. HAD HEARD I PLANNED TRAVEL OUT OF
COUNTRY, AND WANTED TO SEE ME BEFORE I LEFT. DURING 45-MINUTE
COVERSATION, PRESIDENT FOCUSED MAINLY ON A) SECURITY AND
MILITARY THREAT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA; B) DOMESTIC
POLITICAL SITUATION IN PORTUGAL FOLLOWING SPINOLA
OUTSTER; C) SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS FOR POLITICAL FUTURE OF
PORTUGUESE AFRICAN TERRITORIES; D) REPERCUSSIONS WHICH
THIS DEVELOPMENT MIGHT HAVE FOR SOUTH AFRICAN POLICY
TOWARD BLACK AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS. FINALLY PRESIDENT
ASKED IF E) US CONCERNED ABOUT ESCALATING
TENSIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND COULD BE PERSUADED TO
RAISE ITS VOICE. END SUMMARY.

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2. UPON LEARNING I WOULD BE IN PRETORIA FOR FEW DAYS

VISITING AMBASSADOR HURD, PRESIDENT EXPRESSED HOPE I WOULD LEARN FROM MY COLLEAGUE JUST WHAT SOUTH AFRICAN INTENTIONS WERE REGARDING POLITICAL AND MILITARY SUPPORT FOR RHODESIA GIVEN THE FLUID POLITICAL SITUATION EMERGING IN PORTUGAL FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF SPINOLA BOOK ADVOCATING NEGOTIATED RATHER THAN MILITARY SOLUTION IN AFRICAN TERRITORIES. WHAT OPTIONS WOULD SAG FOLLOW: PULL BACK ON ITS PARA-MILITARY PRESENCE IN RHODESIA, OR BUILD IT UP FURTHER, PRESIDEN ASKED.

3. KAUNDA THEN DECRIED GROWING RUSSIAN INFLUENCE IN AFRICA THROUGH MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING PROGRAMS IN UGANDA AND SOMALIA. CRITICIZED "YOUR ALLIES" THE BRITISH AND SPECIFICALLY HEATH GOVERNMENT FOR HAVING ALLOWED COUP TO HAPPEN IN UGANDA AND SUBSEQUENTLY FOR EXTOLLING MERITS OF GOVERNMENT CHANGE.

4. PRESIDENT SAID HE PLANNED VISIT USSR LATER THIS YEAR AND "WOULD NOT MINCE WORDS" IN SPEAKING OUT AGAINST SOVIET MILITARY PENETRATION IN AFRICA, BEING AS OUTSPOKEN AS HE HAD WITH SOVIETS, FIRST AT TIME OF RUSSIAN INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND LATER AT RUSSIAN USE OF EAST GERMAN MISSION IN ZAMBIA FOR OWN PURPOSES UNTIL MISSION ASKED TO LEAVE COUNTRY.

5. PRESIDENT THOUGHT US WOULD CERTAINLY UNDERSTAND HIS USE OF CRITICISM AS WE HAD BEEN OBJECT OF IT WHEN US WAS INVOLVED IN VIETNAM CONFLICT.

6. KAUNDA EXPRESSED OPINION THAT BECAUSE OF SPIRIT OF HIS CRITICISM HE DID NOT THINK THIS IN ANY WAY UNDERMINED BASIC FRIENDSHIP WHICH HE FELT OUR TWO COUNTRIES ENJOYED. I AGREED, CITING SECRETARY'S INTEREST IN AFRICA AT SWERING IN CEREMONIES OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY EASUM AND OF HIS ACCEPTANCE OF FOREIGN MINISTER'S INVITATION TO VISIT ZAMBIA WHEN LESS URGENT MATTERS DID NOT ABSORB HIS ATTENTION. ALSO SAID I THOUGHT CHOICE OF NEW ZAMBIAN AMBASSADOR TO US AUGURED WELL FOR FRIENDLY RELATIONS.

7. IN PRESSING FOR PUBLIC US RECOGNITION OF SERIOUSNESS

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OF ESCALATING ARMED CONFLICT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, KAUNDA SAID HE WAS PLEASED SECRETARY ACCEPTED ZAMBIAN INVITATION BUT INDICATED BORDER TENSION CONTINUES UNABATED AND INTENSIFYING. HE HOPED SECRETARY, WHO HAD GAINED SUCH A REMARKABLE REPUTATION FOR CARRYING OUT PEACE-MAKING MISSION OF PRESIDENT NIXON, WOULD NOT POSTPONE TOO LONG HIS VISIT TO AFRICA. SAID IT IS EASIER TO RESTRAIN AGRESSION AND PREVENT CONFLICT THAN IT IS TO WAIT AND HEAL WOUNDS.

HOPE USG WOULD BE PERSUADED TO EXPRESS ITS CONCERN.

SUCH OVERT ACTION ON OUR PART COULD SERVE AS "WARNING FLAG TO SOUTH AFRICANS" WHICH THEY COULD NOT IGNORE. I ENDEAVORED TO MODERATE PRESIDENT'S ASPIRATIONS FOR EARLY RATHER THAN LATER VISIT, POINTING TO CONTINUING PROBLEMS WITH MIDDLE EAST.

8. UNDERSCORING NEED FOR URGENT ATTENTION TO SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEM, PRESIDENT THEN SPOKE OF INCREASED ACTIVITY OF "CONFESSED SOUTH AFRICAN SPIES IN ZAMBIA WHOSE DESIGNS WERE INCREASINGLY CLEAR FROM OBJECTS OF THEIR ESPIONAGE: LOCATIONS OF EXPLOSIVES, MINE SHAFTS, AND POWER TRANSMITTERS (REFERENCE TO PUBLIC SPY TRIAL WHICH OPENED IN LUSAKA HIGH COURT LAST WEEK INVOLVING ONE KNOWN AND ONE SUSPECTED SOUTH AFRICAN -- BUITENDAG AND KNOWLES). SAID RAIL LINE 100 MILES SOUTH OF LUSAKA NEAR AGRICULTURAL CENTER OF MAZABUKA WAS BLOWN UP ON DAY OF HIS DEPARTURE FOR CHINA FEBRUARY 19. I REMARKED THERE HAD BEEN NO PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF THIS. KAUNDA SAID ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT MAKING DELIBERATE EFFORT TO MUTE INCIDENTS AND CURB EMOTIONS ALTHOUGH THERE HAD BEEN RECENT DISCOVERY OF NEW MINED AREA IN WESTERN PROVINCE AND TROOPS HAD BEEN DISPATCHED THERE TO DEAL WITH SITUATION. PRESIDENT FEARED INCIDENTS WOULD MOVE INCREASINGLY FROM ALONG ZAMBEZI BORDER INTO INTERIOR, FOLLOWING PATTERN OF SCARE BOMBINGS AFTER ZAMBIAN INDEPENDENCE IN 1964.

9. PRESIDENT ACKNOWLEDGED BORDER TENSION AND HEIGHTENED SOUTH AFRICAN ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES HAD PUSHED ZAMBIAN DEFENSE EXPENDITURES UP CONSIDERABLY AND WERE DIVERTING COUNTRY'S RESOURCES AWAY FROM NEEDED AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

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